

reproducing apparatus 20, the user has to always grasp the orders of reproduction presently selectable for the reproduction control. For this purpose, the in-vehicle audio information reproducing apparatus 20 has the function for displaying the reproducing order data recorded in the memory 30 and the reproducing order data recorded in the memory unit 22 onto the display 24 in response to an operating instruction from the operation input unit 23.

A generally used memory device such as a non-volatile RAM or the like, which holds the storage contents for a long period of time even if the power source is turned off, is used as a memory 30. The user, therefore, can also use a plurality of memories 30 in which the order of reproduction according to his favor has been recorded. By properly selectively using those memories 30 in accordance with time and place, the user can enjoy playing many music pieces in accordance with the desired order of reproduction without needing any troublesome operations in the in-vehicle audio information reproducing apparatus 20.

In the embodiments shown in Figs. 1 to 3, although the memory 30 as a portable small-size recording medium is used as a data transfer media for transferring the data between the music piece data managing apparatus 10 and in-vehicle audio information reproducing apparatus 20, the data transfer media in the invention is not limited to it.

For example, it is also possible to use a data transfer media for transferring data between the music

piece data managing apparatus 10 and in-vehicle audio information reproducing apparatus 20 by using a radio transmitting apparatus like a Bluetooth that uses a very weak radio wave of a band of 2.4 GHz for which a license is not required. In this case, a buffer memory for temporarily storing data which is transferred and a master side transmitter in a Bluetooth system are connected to the transfer media recording unit 18 of the music piece data managing apparatus 10. A slave side receiver in the Bluetooth system and a buffer memory for storing the received data are connected to the transfer media reading part 26 of the in-vehicle audio information reproducing apparatus 20.

As a transferring method of the reproducing order data when using the data transfer media mentioned above, the control part 11 can also activate the Bluetooth system as a data transfer media each time the editing operation of the order of reproduction of the music piece data is executed in the music piece data managing apparatus 10. It is also possible to arrange the present system to be activated by an interruption signal at predetermined time intervals.

According to the in-vehicle audio information reproduction control system of the invention, the order of reproduction of the music piece data stored in the in-vehicle audio information reproducing apparatus can be edited on the music piece data managing apparatus (personal computer) installed at an indoor place which is away from

the above apparatus and where an environment is good. The editing operation, therefore, can be extremely easily performed and labor of the editing operations can be reduced.

As described above, the order of reproduction of the music piece data can be stored onto the recording medium such as a portable memory stick or the like. Therefore, by preparing a plurality of recording media and exchanging them and loading into the in-vehicle audio information reproducing apparatus, the user can easily enjoy playing of the music pieces in the various orders of reproduction.

The present invention is based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-323730 which is hereby incorporated by reference.